



**Site Visit Programmatic Questions  
Positive Alternatives 2016  
Catholic Charities Winona – June 7, 2016**

**1. Update/ Demographic Reporting**

- Review your two most recently submitted Update/Demographic Reports: are you meeting Report Count Goals?

Yes, this grantee has been meeting their report count goals.

- Note any significant differences between the reports: are your programs stable? Improving? What do the reports indicate about progress in your programs?

Numbers reported for Catholic Charities of Winona have been within the reporting range of their work plan. Their client numbers have been increasing mostly across the board but they do experience normal fluctuations from time to time.

- Any questions on the recording of data on either form?

Hotline number reporting was discussed. The staff explained that the numbers were reported as total numbers and then as grant eligible calls. It was suggested that their current reporting of the hotline numbers on their update reporting was correct.

**2. Work Plan**

- Review your 2012-16 grant application's description of the program you requested to be funded. Note the services and activities you said you would provide and the number of clients you would serve.
- Please prepare a **short summary of your current program(s) and the number of clients being served.** Address these topics:
  - a. How does what you describe in the application compare with what you are currently providing?
  - b. Have any programs and/or activities or services been added or removed?
  - c. Have the number of clients being served per quarter decreased or increased in the 4th year?
  - d. Is there anything in particular you want to share about your current program to explain its current status?

Summary of Current Program for Site Visit June 2016

We have been a recipient of the Positive Alternative Grant since 2006. Receiving the grant transformed our Pregnancy, Parenting and Adoption program. The resources brought to the program by the grant changed dramatically the program's level of accessibility, responsiveness and advocacy for the enduring benefit of pregnant and parenting women across southern Minnesota. We believe that our program clearly addresses the goals of the Positive Alternatives Grant. We both encourage and assist women in carrying their pregnancies to

term and in caring for their babies after birth, and provide accurate information on, referral to and assistance with securing necessary services.

a. How does what you described in the 2012-2016 application compare to what you are currently providing?

We have been providing all of the services that our 2012-2016 grant application stated we would do. We provide a 24/7 pregnancy information line that is staffed by licensed social workers. This is a key feature because often women facing a pregnancy may think they have only one option-abortion, but when they call the 24 hour line they learn about viable alternatives to abortion from a social worker who will really listen and help. Our social work staff provides information and referrals for all of the necessary services. We are responsive, accessible and we advocate for our clients. The initial face to face contact is provided within 48 hours of the call. Our serving area is 20 counties and many of the counties are rural so transportation for our clients can be an issue. Our social workers travel to our clients to take away barriers to service. We provide pregnancy, parenting and adoption planning and education through a therapeutic case management relationship. We provide financial literacy education and safe sleep education to every pregnant and parenting woman that we meet with. We have been evaluating both the financial literacy education and the safe sleep education. Funding for the financial assistance is provided entirely with donations to our Catholic Charities' Mother and Child Assistance Fund. We have a Baby Bottle Campaign and all of the money donated is designated to help pregnant women to carry their baby to term and to help them after birth. There is an application process and we help with rent and utilities. Our outreach activities inform and educate the community about the services available to pregnant and parenting women. We believe regardless of how responsive our pregnancy, parenting and adoption program is or how well it is staffed 24/7/365, such services will only be effective if people know about all of the services available.

b. Have any programs and/or activities or services been removed?

We have not removed any program, or activities or service. We have added a program service called "Nurturing Healthy Families" which was added to our work plan in 2014-2015. We had a pilot program in 2013 and experienced some struggles getting participation. We made some adjustments and included this program service in the work plan for 2015-2016. The program provides classes to help parents develop their parenting skills. The Nurturing Healthy Families has been a good addition to our mix of services to pregnant and parenting women but it is also challenging to get the monthly participation even though we have added all of the supports to take away barriers to participation. The program is growing and we have added new education material that we believe will really benefit the clients and encourage participation. Need based cards, daycare reimbursement, bus passes and a light lunch have been provided but recently the lunch was dropped for lack of client interest. Lite snacks are now provided.

c .Have the number of clients being served per quarter decreased or increased in the 4th year?

The number of clients being served in the 4th year has increased. The first two quarters had a steady increase with a very slight dip in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter but we still met the number of clients we indicated we would see in our 2015-2016 work plan. We expect to finish out the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter with no problems.

d. Is there anything in particular you want to share about your current program to explain its current status?

We are working the grant and our numbers are increasing and our program services are expanding to meet the needs of our client population.

We have a pilot education assistance program for the next grant cycle work plan. We plan to help women to develop educational goals, complete their education and achieve financial stability for their family. We will be providing the case management support service.

Submitted by

Valerie Strauss Cunningham

Clinical Counseling Director

Pregnancy, Parenting, Adoption Director

May 31, 2016

### **3. Fiscal Review**

- Review of the 2015-16 expenditures spreadsheet sent by Ellen Heit.  
Numbers were in agreement with MDH.
- Have you revised your 2015-16 budget justification?  
A budget revision was sent in this spring and has been approved.
- Any questions on your completion of the 2014-16 grant and your budget?  
The Controller asked if there would be a final financial report required that encompassed the entire 2014-16 budget cycle. The answer is no.

### **4. Do you have any questions on the findings from your Financial Reconciliation?**

No further questions at this time.

### **5. Grant Closeout Form**

- You will have an opportunity to review a draft of the Grant Closeout Form.

### **6. 2015-16 Evaluation - Due June 10th**

- Your 2015-16 Evaluation Plan will be discussed. Any suggestions provided in your 2013-14 Report Summary should be included in the plan, if you are continuing the same evaluation.

An evaluation project for this year covered two topics – safe sleep and financial literacy. The report has been submitted. The report demonstrated that clients are

benefiting from both programs and that both programs are important components of the work Catholic Charities does for the PA grant.

- Any questions on the expectations of the report or your organization's evaluation plan for 2015-16?

No, the report has already been sent in.

#### 7. Positive Alternatives website

- The PA website will be reconfigured once contracts are all signed.
- Resources for grantees will remain basically the same.
- WRTK booklet revisions have not yet been completed.

Both the PA website and the WRTK booklets are still a work in progress. Updates will be sent on any progress made on either project.

#### 8. Grant Manager Updates

The new grant cycle will be yearly versus the current grant that operated under 2 year grant cycles. PA policies are being updated and revised. Expect to see the revised policies with the beginning of the new grant cycle. A WebEx webinar will be offered for all PA staff that works with the PA grant on Thursday, July 14<sup>th</sup> in the morning. More information and registration details will be sent out soon to all new grantees.

#### 9. Issues specific to this grantee

A new PA program manager has been just hired to replace the current grant program manager that has been with the program long term. The transition has been smooth thus far. It was recommended that the new manager attend the WebEx webinar on July 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### 10. Facility

- If your facility has been remodeled or updated please give an update. Do you have any plans to move your organization to another building in the near future?  
No plans to change building needs for the grant funded programs.
- If grant-funded activity areas have been significantly altered, be prepared to discuss.

#### 11. Health Equity is a priority goal at the Minnesota Department of Health. How is your organization addressing this need?

Services are offered to anyone who calls or seeks help at no cost to the client. No one is turned away for services.

#### 12. What are the new **unaddressed needs** in the communities you serve?

Affordable housing is a big unmet need in the area Catholic Charities of Winona serves.

- Do you have a well-developed and up-to-date list of community partners available?  
This grantee offers PA funded services over a large geographic area of southeastern Minnesota. Resources available vary from county to county. Up to date lists are available for all PA staff. Some common partners include Birthright, Public Health and the several colleges that are in the area served by Catholic Charities of Winona.
- Are you able to make warm referrals to any of these partners?  
Most offices are able to make warm referrals and are knowledgeable of who their community partners are. Updates of community partners are always encouraged.

**13. Clients stories** (along with client data collection) are an important component of the work we do. Client stories fill in the gaps that data can't detail and humanize the efforts made by all grantees.

- **Have you submitted your PA funded client stories yet?**

Yes, thank you.

**14. How can MDH be more supportive of your program?**

MDH should continue to be supportive through being accessible when questions on the PA grant may occur.

**15. Other?**

Catholic Charities of Winona has been a long time PA grantee who serves a large rural geographic area of southeastern Minnesota. They have several PA staff who travel to meet with women in unplanned pregnancy situations. They provide case management services to meet their needs to support and encourage them to carry their pregnancies to term and to parent their infant after their birth. Catholic Charities of Winona has been a responsible PA grantee who is consistently meeting their goals and looking forward to proactively meet the continuing needs of their clients.

Site Visit Date: June 7, 2016

Center: Catholic Charities of Winona

Grantee Staff: Valerie Cunningham, Sarah Vetter

Positive Alternatives Grant Manager: Mary Ottman